

News & Notes



WELCOME BACK!
Holly Hermansen
*Nevada County
Superintendent of Schools*

Welcome Back!

Wow. It is hard to believe how fast the time flies. I know that we all say it when we meet up together again after a break, but it seems like time goes by faster and faster each year. I hope each of you had a relaxing and enjoyable time over the summer, providing you with a renewed sense of energy and excitement for the school year. It was a pleasure to see so many educators at Scholar Day at the Fair and hear about your summer adventures and activities.

I'm not sure how many share this sentiment, but I have talked to several educators in the last couple of weeks that share my feeling, this is going to be a good year. It feels like after years of crisis, uncertainty and change, we are finally beginning school with a little different feeling than in the last six or seven years. While there may be uncertain times ahead, for the time being, the economic crisis has improved. Under the new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) our schools for the most part are receiving slight increases in funding. Although most or all of the schools in Nevada County are still in declining enrollment, the decline appears to be leveling off. We successfully completed the first year of the new Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), where districts engage stakeholders and make local decisions about allocating resources to their schools and students. We are in the process of fully implementing the new

Common Core State Standards, and the reflections from the teachers who participated in the summer professional development opportunities offered by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools were overwhelmingly positive. In addition, many of our districts held local trainings to support teachers in the implementation of the new state standards. This will be the year that we settle into all the new changes, and I have been very excited at the sense of optimism that seems to be prevalent.

Over the summer I have been reading [Learning From Lincoln, Leadership Practices for School Success](#), by Harvey Alvy and Pam Robbins and given to me by a dear friend. This exceptional book provides insightful guidance to principals, teachers, superintendents and other school leaders as they face the challenges in education today. The authors identified ten areas that help to explain why Lincoln was so effective, despite insurmountable odds. My favorite of the areas addressed is: "Building a Diverse and Competent Team to Successfully Address the Mission". Lincoln strongly believed and practiced that if you got the right people together, the greater good of the mission would be accomplished. The authors of the book compared Lincoln engaging individuals with specifically refined skills to share a common and national focus, to school teams devoted to collaborating and working together to improve student achievement. This made me thoughtful about the work that is done in all our schools. And with that, I recognize and appreciate the contributions of all the members of each school team in reaching that common goal.

Thank you again for all the fantastic work you do for our students each day, and have a wonderful year!

NCSOS Common Core Coaching Team Services for Nevada County Educators

Kathleen Kiefer

Curriculum, Instruction, & Accountability Director

As promised in May, Common Core Coaching Team Services have begun. Perhaps you were one of approximately 100 Nevada County teachers that attended one or more of the Common Core workshops offered August 4-8. The workshops will prove to be an inspiring beginning as we transition fully into Common Core and all that it encompasses. In that regard, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office is proud to introduce your colleagues who comprise the curriculum and instruction coaching team for 2014 - 2015:

Director of Curriculum and Instruction:

Kathleen Kiefer

Math Coaches:

Grades K – 2: Susan Lima

Grades 3 – 5: Sarah Schwartz

Grades 6 – 8: Jim Richards

Grades 9 – 12: Michael Hughes

ELA Coaches:

Grades K – 2: Stacey Welch

Grades 3 – 5: Andrea Marks

Grades 6 – 8: Jill Massie

Grades 9 – 12: Steve Hansen

The NCSOS coaching team is excited to offer a range of support services for Nevada County teachers and instructional leaders. Following is a list of current workshops that are ready for presentation at school sites

after school, during staff meetings, on professional development days, or to groups of teachers during their PLC/early release time. All of these can be tailored to meet the unique needs of each district.

- Identifying Complex Text (*Grades 3-5, 6-8*)
- Creating Text Dependent Questions (*Grades 3-5, 6-8*)
- Close Reading (*Grades 3-5, 6-8*)
- Teaching the Problem Solving Process (*Grades 3-5, 6-8, 7-10*)
- Using Math Games, Manipulatives, and Other Resources to Address the CCSS (*Grades K-1, 2-3*)
- Deconstructing an ELA Standard in Order to Create a Comprehensive CCSS Lesson/Unit (*Grades K-12*)
- Raising Literacy Levels with Guided Independent Reading (*Grades 2-5*)

The team is also working on creating model Common Core classrooms for teacher observation, TK collaboration, Common Core and special education discussions, cooperative learning workshops, Next Generation Science Standards support and collaboration, topic-driven open collaboration time, repeated follow-up meetings for each workshop, and bringing Visible Learning into the classroom. The coaches are even available to work one-on-one with teachers as needed.

To schedule services please contact Kathleen Kiefer at 478-6400 ext. 246 or kkiefer@nevco.k12.ca.us. We have been working hard and would be delighted if you took advantage of us.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings

BTSA

The Beginning Teachers Support & Assessment (BTSA) program provides first and second year teachers with rigorous but compassionate support and tools for assessment. The BTSA seminar schedule can be found on page 4 of ***The Nugget*** in the *Quick Reference Calendar*.

Newly hired teachers should consult with their districts to determine, based on their credentials, whether they should sign-up for BTSA. Additional information or

questions can also be directed to Nevada County's BTSA Coordinator Susan Clarabut at sclarabut@scoe.org. Nevada County is a member of the North Coast Beginning Teacher Program, which can be found at www.ncbtp.org.

Brain Gym ® For Educators & Parents

Discover the ease and joy of whole brain learning. Brain Gym ®, based on current brain research, is a series of simple movements that integrate parts of the brain for optimal learning and performing. It also offers practical and natural solutions to

stress, as well as academic and behavioral challenges. This class will emphasize use in the classroom. Workshop takes place Saturday, Sept. 13, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Sierra Montessori Academy in Grass Valley. Cost includes the Brain Gym ® teachers edition book and handouts. To register or for more information contact instructor Sheri Hoss, MEd at sheri.movement@gmail.com or 271-5514.

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All...

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Field Trips



Music in the Mountains

These MIM Educational Programs are FREE to Nevada County Schools:

- + Peers Performing for Peers
- + Music Live
- + Classics 4 Kids
- + Take Five for Music (formerly the Brummitt-Taylor Classical Music Listening Program)

Education Director Mark Vance
265.6173 x202

Mud Hut @ ASiF Studios

A schedule of kids fall 2014 clay classes take place at ASiF Studios beginning in early September. Two classes, Fire Up the Fun and Clay for Homeschoolers, offer hand-building techniques while learning the basics of clay as an art form. Returning students pursue independent study forming their own creations. The Mud Hut also offers classroom workshops, instruction, and enrichment classes. To register or for more information visit www.asifstudios.com or contact teacher Denise Wey at 477-7842 or dewey@denisewey.com.

To Arms for Independency: The American Revolutionary War Comes to Nevada City!

The Delaware Regiment of the Brigade of the American Revolution will present Revolutionary War Days in Pioneer Park in Nevada City as an adjunct of the Constitution Day Parade weekend. This year Revolutionary War Days has been increased to include Friday, Sept. 12 from 1-5. Other event hours are Saturday from 10-5 and Sunday from 10-12. A full schedule of events and reenactment activities can be found at www.delawareregiment.org. This is

an educational opportunity perfectly suited for students.

Opportunities for All

To Arms for Independency: Looking for an Enthusiastic Teacher for Living History

The Delaware Regiment of the Brigade of the American Revolution is looking for an enthusiastic teacher to discuss the possibility of future school programs to take place at Revolutionary War Days. If you might be that person, the one that loves living history, contact John Hess at jhess1776@innercite.com.

Tournament Schedule for School Year 2014-15

The tournament schedule for geography, spelling, writing, math, and speech has been approved. The schedule can be found on page 4 of *The Nugget* in the *Quick Reference Calendar*.

Local Authors, Illustrators, & Publisher

Dawn Publications is a Nevada County children's book publisher that has distributed complimentary children's books to your school's library. Local authors will do author visits and book signings at your school. Books and author/illustrators include:

- *On Kiki's Reef* by Carol L. Malnor, illustrated by Trina L. Hunner
- *The Dandelion Seed's Big Dream* by Joseph Anthony, illustrated by Cris Arbo
- *The Prairie That Nature Built* by Marybeth Lorbiecki, illustrated by Cathy Morrison
- *The Mouse and the Meadow* written & illustrated by Chad Wallace
- *The Swamp Where Gator Hides* by Marianne Berkes, illustrated by Roberta Baird

To schedule a visit contact Sandy Philpott at (800) 545-7475.

CPR & First Aid Training

See the Quick Reference Calendar below for dates & times thru September 2014. CPR & First Aid Training is \$30. Reservations are first come, first serve. Fees must be prepaid to reserve a spot in the class. For further information call Faith at 478-6400 x201 or register on-line at www.nevco.org/register.

Finding Funding

- **NCSOS offers Educator Grant Program!** Pursuant to a continuing goal to provide services and support to the students of Nevada County, the NCSOS office is pleased to share with you newly offered grant opportunities to assist in your district's ongoing efforts to increase student achievement. Grants are available on an as needed basis as funds allow, with a \$1000 maximum award. Letters of interest are due September 1, December 1, and/or March 1. There is *no* form ~ simply a letter of interest. To receive a copy of the RFP with required information, contact Judy Nielsen at judy@nevco.k12.ca.us.
- Last minute notice from Nevada County Arts: the Leff-Davis Fund for Visual Artists offers grant opportunities to emerging professional and mid-career artists in Sacramento, Yolo, Placer, and Nevada Counties. Deadline to apply is August 22, 2014. If it is too late for this year, be prepared and put it on your calendar for next year. For questions contact Priscilla@sacregcf.org or Jeannie@sacregcf.org. Apply thru the Sacramento Regional Community Foundation at <http://sacregcf.org> who has awarded \$100 million in grants over a 30 year period.

Quick Reference Calendar...

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Quick Reference Calendar...

Other than the August edition, calendar events have been highlighted in previous editions of *The Nugget* and are listed in chronological order. In that regard, back issues of *The Nugget*, with additional information, can be found at www.nevco.org/news-events.



Upcoming CPR Class Dates

CPR & FIRST AID FULL	Thurs. 8/21	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Thurs. 9/11	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Tues. 9/30	5 p.m. – 9 p.m.



Beginning Teachers Support & Assessment

All seminars not online take place in the NCSOS Houser Room from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

DATE	GROUP	OTHER INFORMATION
August 25	Coaches/Support Providers	1 st & 2 nd year support providers
Sept. 23	Year 1 teachers	seminar
Sept. 24	Year 2 teachers	seminar
Oct. 21	Year 1 teachers	seminar
Oct. 22	Year 2 teachers	seminar
Nov. 18	Year 1 teachers	seminar
Nov. 19	Education Specialists	Special education seminar
December	Year 1 & 2 teachers	ONLINE seminars
Jan. 20	Year 1 teachers	seminar
Jan. 21	Year 2 teachers	Seminar
Jan. 22	Education Specialists	Special education seminar
Feb. 17	Year 1 teachers	seminar
February	Year 2 teachers	ONLINE seminar
March	Year 1 & 2 teachers	ONLINE seminars
April 21	Year 1 teachers	seminar
April 22	Year 2 teachers	seminar
May 19	Education Specialists	Special education seminar



Tournament Schedule for School Year 2014-15

EVENT	GRADE	DATE	LOCATION
Geography	7 th	10/2	Chicago Park School Gym
Spelling	5 th - 6 th	11/4	Miners Foundry
Spelling	7 th - 8 th	11/6	Miners Foundry
Writing	7 th - 8 th	1/22	Miners Foundry
Math	5 th - 6 th	1/27	Miners Foundry
Math	7 th - 8 th	1/29	Miners Foundry
Speech Prelims	4 th - 8 th	3/12	Calvary Bible Church
Speech Finals	4 th - 8 th	3/24	Nevada Theatre